

Claim Amendments

1. (Original) An ice making and delivery system comprising:
 - (a) a condenser unit including:
 - (i) a compressor for compressing a gaseous refrigerant;
 - (ii) a condenser for condensing the gaseous refrigerant and dissipating heat;
 - (b) the condenser unit being adapted for selective placement relative to a building such that compressor noise and condenser heat are substantially minimized relative to an evaporator zone in the building;
 - (c) at least one expansion valve for receiving a compressed gaseous fluid from the condenser and converting the gaseous fluid from a high temperature gaseous fluid to a lower temperature liquid fluid;
 - (d) at least one evaporator for receiving the lower temperature liquid fluid from the expansion valve and cooling an associated ice making apparatus;
 - (e) an ice making apparatus associated with said evaporator and having means for creating ice on a cold wall of the apparatus and scraping ice from that wall and compressing the ice into formed nuggets;
 - (f) said at least one evaporator and its associated ice making apparatus being adapted to be separately located, spaced apart from the condenser unit, in an evaporator zone of the building;
 - (g) at least one ice storage unit being adapted to be separately located from the at least one evaporator and its associated ice making apparatus, and from the condenser unit, in an ice storage zone of the building;
 - (h) ice nugget conduit means connecting said ice making apparatus and the separately located ice storage unit;
 - (i) said ice nugget conduit means comprising means for delivery of ice nuggets from said ice making apparatus to said at least one ice storage unit; and
 - (j) said ice making apparatus including ice nugget drive means for driving ice through said conduit means by a driving force other than gravity;

- (k) means for returning refrigerant from the at least one evaporator, to the condenser unit; and
- (l) means for driving the compressor and ice making apparatus and its delivery means in a continuous manner, whereby ice nuggets are delivered to that at least one storage unit in a continuous manner.

2. (Original) The ice making and delivery system of claim 1, wherein there are at least two said evaporators, each with an associated ice making apparatus.

3. (Original) The ice making and delivery system of claim 2, wherein means are provided for independent and/or simultaneous shutdown of any of said evaporators.

4. (Original) The ice making and delivery system of claim 2, wherein the at least two said evaporators and their respective ice making apparatus are provided with two ice nugget conduit means.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The ice making and delivery system of claim 4,~~ An ice making and delivery system comprising:

- (a) a condenser unit including:
 - (i) a compressor for compressing a gaseous refrigerant;
 - (ii) a condenser for condensing the gaseous refrigerant and dissipating heat;
- (b) the condenser unit being adapted for selective placement relative to a building such that compressor noise and condenser heat are substantially minimized relative to an evaporator zone in the building;
- (c) at least one expansion valve for receiving a compressed gaseous fluid from the condenser and converting the gaseous fluid from a high temperature gaseous fluid to a lower temperature liquid fluid;
- (d) at least one evaporator for receiving the lower temperature liquid fluid from the expansion valve and cooling an associated ice making apparatus;

- (e) an ice making apparatus associated with said evaporator and having means for creating ice on a cold wall of the apparatus and scraping ice from that wall and compressing the ice into formed nuggets;
- (f) said at least one evaporator and its associated ice making apparatus being adapted to be separately located, spaced apart from the condenser unit, in an evaporator zone of the building;
- (g) at least one ice storage unit being adapted to be separately located from the at least one evaporator and its associated ice making apparatus, and from the condenser unit, in an ice storage zone of the building;
- (h) ice nugget conduit means connecting said ice making apparatus and the separately located ice storage unit;
- (i) said ice nugget conduit means comprising means for delivery of ice nuggets from said ice making apparatus to said at least one ice storage unit; and
- (j) said ice making apparatus including ice nugget drive means for driving ice through said conduit means by a driving force other than gravity;
- (k) means for returning refrigerant from the at least one evaporator, to the condenser unit; and
- (l) means for driving the compressor and ice making apparatus and its delivery means in a continuous manner, whereby ice nuggets are delivered to that at least one storage unit in a continuous manner;

wherein the at least two said evaporators and their respective ice making apparatus are provided with two ice nugget conduit means; wherein the means of clause (h) of claim 1 comprise two means for delivery to two different laterally spaced apart locations in the same ice storage unit, for improving the distribution of ice nuggets in the storage unit.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The ice making and delivery system of claim 4,~~ An ice making and delivery system comprising:

- (a) a condenser unit including:
 - (i) a compressor for compressing a gaseous refrigerant;

- (ii) a condenser for condensing the gaseous refrigerant and dissipating heat;
- (b) the condenser unit being adapted for selective placement relative to a building such that compressor noise and condenser heat are substantially minimized relative to an evaporator zone in the building;
- (c) at least one expansion valve for receiving a compressed gaseous fluid from the condenser and converting the gaseous fluid from a high temperature gaseous fluid to a lower temperature liquid fluid;
- (d) at least one evaporator for receiving the lower temperature liquid fluid from the expansion valve and cooling an associated ice making apparatus;
- (e) an ice making apparatus associated with said evaporator and having means for creating ice on a cold wall of the apparatus and scraping ice from that wall and compressing the ice into formed nuggets;
- (f) said at least one evaporator and its associated ice making apparatus being adapted to be separately located, spaced apart from the condenser unit, in an evaporator zone of the building;
- (g) at least one ice storage unit being adapted to be separately located from the at least one evaporator and its associated ice making apparatus, and from the condenser unit, in an ice storage zone of the building;
- (h) ice nugget conduit means connecting said ice making apparatus and the separately located ice storage unit;
- (i) said ice nugget conduit means comprising means for delivery of ice nuggets from said ice making apparatus to said at least one ice storage unit; and
- (j) said ice making apparatus including ice nugget drive means for driving ice through said conduit means by a driving force other than gravity;
- (k) means for returning refrigerant from the at least one evaporator, to the condenser unit; and
- (l) means for driving the compressor and ice making apparatus and its delivery means in a continuous manner, whereby ice nuggets are delivered to that at least one storage unit in a continuous manner;

wherein the at least two said evaporators and their respective ice making apparatus are provided with two ice nugget conduit means; wherein there are at least two different ice storage units and wherein the means of clause (h) of ~~claim 1~~ comprise two means for delivery; each to a different ice storage unit.

7. (Original) The ice making and delivery system of claim 6, wherein the two different ice storage units are separately located relative to each other.

8. (Original) The ice making and delivery system of claim 1, wherein the means for compressing the ice into nuggets and the ice nugget drive means comprise the same means.

9. (Original) The ice making and delivery system of claim 1, in combination with a building, with the condenser unit being located outside the building and with the at least one evaporator with associated ice making apparatus and the at least one ice storage unit being located in at least one evaporator zone and at least one ice storage zone, respectively in said building; with said at least one evaporator zone being located in said building spaced apart from said condenser unit; with said at least one ice storage unit being located in said building separately from the at least one evaporator and its associated ice making apparatus, and separately from said condenser unit.

10. (Original) An ice making and delivery system for continuously making ice nuggets and delivering them to at least one storage unit, the system comprising:

- (a) a refrigerant condenser unit including a compressor, a condenser and a means for dissipating heat from the condenser;
- (b) at least one evaporator for continuously receiving refrigerant from the condenser unit and cooling a nugget type ice making apparatus;
- (c) a nugget type ice making apparatus associated with said at least one evaporator, for continuously compressing ice formed on a surface thereof, into nuggets;

- (d) conduit means for continuously delivering ice nuggets from ice making apparatus to at least one ice storage unit via a delivery force other than gravity;
- (e) at least one ice storage unit for receiving and storing ice nuggets delivered from the ice making apparatus; and
- (f) said condenser unit, said at least one evaporator with its associated ice making apparatus and the at least one storage unit being adapted to be located spaced apart and remote from each other.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein there are two said evaporators with their associated ice making apparatus, for delivery of ice via said conduit means, to at least one said ice storage unit.

12. (Currently Amedned) ~~The system of claim 11;~~ An ice making and delivery system for continuously making ice nuggets and delivering them to at least one storage unit, the system comprising:

- (a) a refrigerant condenser unit including a compressor, a condenser and a means for dissipating heat from the condenser;
- (b) at least one evaporator for continuously receiving refrigerant from the condenser unit and cooling a nugget type ice making apparatus;
- (c) a nugget type ice making apparatus associated with said at least one evaporator, for continuously compressing ice formed on a surface thereof, into nuggets;
- (d) conduit means for continuously delivering ice nuggets from ice making apparatus to at least one ice storage unit via a delivery force other than gravity;
- (e) at least one ice storage unit for receiving and storing ice nuggets delivered from the ice making apparatus; and
- (f) said condenser unit, said at least one evaporator with its associated ice making apparatus and the at least one storage unit being adapted to be located spaced apart and remote from each other,

wherein there are two said evaporators with their associated ice making apparatus, for delivery of ice via said conduit means, to at least one said ice storage unit; wherein there are two separate ice storage units, and wherein said conduit means comprise two means for delivering ice from said two ice making apparatus to said two ice storage units, each to a different ice storage unit.